

## **EXHIBIT D**

Page 1

1  
2 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

3 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

4 Case No. 09-50026-reg

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6 In the Matter of:

7  
8 MOTORS LIQUIDATION COMPANY, et al.

9 f/k/a General Motors Corporation, et al.,

10  
11 Debtors.

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13 - - - - -x

14  
15 United States Bankruptcy Court

16 One Bowling Green

17 New York, New York

18  
19 October 4, 2010

20 3:06 PM

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23 B E F O R E:

24 HON. ROBERT E. GERBER

25 U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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1  
2 HEARING re Motion of General Motors LLC Pursuant to 11 U.S.C.  
3 §§ 105 and 363 to Enforce 363 Sale Order and Approved Deferred  
4 Termination (Wind-Down) Agreement  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE CLERK: All rise.

THE COURT: Good morning -- or afternoon. Have seats, please. All right. GM. Motors Liquidation Company. Rally Motors. Mr. Lederman, do we have some preliminary matters that I had become unaware of?

MR. LEDERMAN: No, Your Honor, we don't. The only matter before you is a matter that you just introduced. So I was just going to introduce the parties and turn over the lectern to them.

THE COURT: All right. Well, I know Mr. Steinberg and Mr. Snyder. Why don't the remainder of you folks introduce yourselves.

MR. DAVIDSON: Scott Davidson from King & Spalding --

THE COURT: All right.

MR. DAVIDSON: -- for New GM.

MR. OXFORD (TELEPHONICALLY): Greg Oxford, Isaac Clouse --

MR. BLATT: Steven Blatt from Bellavia --

THE COURT: Just a minute, please. First, I need the folks in the courtroom to introduce themselves.

MR. OXFORD: Okay, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And then if people are on the phone, I'm going to have to ask that they defer to people in the courtroom unless people in the courtroom hand off to them.

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1 MR. BLATT: Steve --

2 THE COURT: All right. Just a minute, please,  
3 gentlemen.

4 MR. BLATT: Yes, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right. With Mr. Snyder?

6 MR. BLATT: Yes.

7 MR. SNYDER: Yes, Your Honor. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

8 MR. BLATT: Steven Blatt, Bellavia Gentile, 200 Old  
9 Country Road, Mineola, New York, on behalf of Rally Auto Group.

10 THE COURT: Right, Mr. Blatt. Okay.

11 THE COURT: Now, is there a gentleman on the phone  
12 who wanted to introduce himself?

13 MR. OXFORD: Yes, Your Honor. It's Greg Oxford,  
14 Isaac Clouse Crose & Oxford also appearing with Mr. Steinberg  
15 on behalf of General Motors LLC.

16 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Oxford. Okay. Gentlemen,  
17 make your presentations as you see fit. But I'm going to need  
18 you to address the following needs and concerns. But first,  
19 let me lay on my frustration with you guys, both sides. I  
20 cannot, for the life of me, understand, Mr. Snyder and Mr.  
21 Blatt, why you can't follow the requirements of my case  
22 management orders and give me a table of cases and table of  
23 authorities as those rules require in baby talk. When I'm  
24 trying to compare the two submissions and see what you guys  
25 said about a particular case or, for that matter, how you



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1 organized your arguments, that is a source of incredible  
2 difficulty and frustration for me. And, Mr. Steinberg and Mr.  
3 Oxford -- Mr. Oxford, I think you at least have been in this  
4 case before. How many times have I said that I don't want to  
5 use -- see the word "passum" especially when it refers to the  
6 most important case in your whole brief on a lot of these  
7 issues? I'm not expecting a response now. You can address it  
8 when it's your turn.

9           Gentlemen -- Mr. Snyder and Mr. Blatt, if you want to  
10 make your subject matter jurisdictions, you can, but it doesn't  
11 seem to me that this is about subject matter jurisdiction in  
12 any way, shape or form. Frankly, I think you missed the boat  
13 when you were talking about related-to jurisdiction. It seems  
14 to me that this is a poster child for arising-in jurisdiction  
15 and the principle that bankruptcy judges have the authority to  
16 enforce their own orders. And when an agreement says that the  
17 bankruptcy court will have exclusive jurisdiction to deal with  
18 a particular matter and then the order implements that, I have  
19 some trouble seeing how it can be to the contrary. If you  
20 nevertheless want to continue to the contrary, you got to help  
21 me with Petrie Retail and Millenium Seacarriers on those  
22 points.

23           Now, I sense that both sides agree that there is no  
24 right of judicial review under the Dealer Arbitration Act and  
25 that the Federal Arbitration Act applies only to contractual

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1 agreements to arbitrate. So therefore, we're on a little bit  
2 of -- or totally implied remedies if and to the extent they  
3 exist. Now, Mr. Steinberg, I want to see whether your argument  
4 proves too much. And you can help me with that if I posit to  
5 you a situation where the arbitrator is taking bribes or he's  
6 taking an ex parte communication because my belly would tell me  
7 that even if there weren't an expressed right of judicial  
8 review in that situation that Rally Motors, if it were on the  
9 losing end of that type of situation and, of course, if it came  
10 to me, could come and say, Judge, I need relief from that kind  
11 of thing. But, of course, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Blatt, that isn't  
12 what you're alleging here. In essence, you're alleging that  
13 the arbitrator made an error of law. And you haven't shown me  
14 any case in which the arbitrator was told that he had to deal  
15 with these franchise agreements double or nothing. And it  
16 strikes me as a garden variety claim of legal error. So help  
17 me if I'm wrong on that.

18 Now, I don't know how many times I and the other  
19 bankruptcy judges in this district have had 363 orders and  
20 confirmation orders provide for continuing jurisdiction  
21 typically to follow up on the implementation of things that  
22 were in the sale order and in the plan or agreements that were  
23 provided under either. Counterparties come into the court all  
24 the time putting their money on the line to get benefits by  
25 dealing with the bankruptcy court. And that's an important

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1 reason, as at least one of the cases that was quoted to me  
2 says, why we have provisions of this character. And I need  
3 your help in understanding why I should say "Never mind" to  
4 provisions of that type. But if there is authority for some  
5 kind of implied judicial review that I, in contrast to a  
6 district judge exercising diversity jurisdiction, could issue,  
7 or even if it were deemed to be 1331 federal question  
8 jurisdiction -- though I don't see the provision of the U.S.C.  
9 under which the federal right arises. I mean, I see why you  
10 could compel GM to arbitrate but New GM didn't quarrel with  
11 your right to arbitrate that I need help on that.

12 So, Mr. Snyder, will it be you or Mr. Blatt?

13 MR. SNYDER: It'll be me, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. SNYDER: Your Honor, as I think the analogy for  
17 our purposes or the point where we start is the AAA commercial  
18 rules. And I focus on those, Your Honor, only because, as the  
19 Court pointed out, I don't think anyone disputes that when both  
20 parties sat down to the arbitration that the commercial rules  
21 apply. Now, GM states that it objected to the use of the  
22 commercial rules. But be that as it may, the scheduling order,  
23 in particular, paragraph 1, which is annexed to our objection  
24 as Exhibit F, specifically states that the commercial rules  
25 apply. And one of those rules, Your Honor, is 48(c) which we

1     relied on extensively in our papers but it states, and I  
2     quote -- it's short: "Parties to an arbitration under this  
3     rule shall be deemed to have consented. A judgment upon the  
4     arbitration award may be entered into any federal, state or  
5     court of competent jurisdiction." Now it doesn't say they have  
6     to agree. It says that they've deemed to have consented. And  
7     so our argument is, Your Honor, that if the AAA commercial  
8     rules apply and GM is deemed to have consented then, naturally,  
9     there is a -- the arbitration award is final and binding and  
10    there has to be a right of judicial review under the terms of  
11    48(c). Now we cited to the Idea Nuova case for the proposition  
12    that although that was a contract case, where the contract is  
13    silent as to whether the rights of judicial review apply, the  
14    Courts will impute 48(c) not because the parties agreed to  
15    arbitrate, Your Honor, but because by going forward with the  
16    arbitration, because the commercial rules themselves apply,  
17    they're deemed to have consented to both the arbitration and  
18    the entry of a final judgment. And, Your Honor, that's based  
19    solely on facts that are not in dispute.

20           THE COURT: Mr. Oxford, do you want to mute your  
21    phone, please?

22           MR. OXFORD: I'm not sure I know how to do that. We  
23    could --

24           THE COURT: All right. CourtCall, mute them. Go  
25    ahead, Mr. Snyder.

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1 MR. OXFORD: I didn't hear you, Your Honor. I'm  
2 sorry.

3 THE COURT: I'm telling CourtCall to mute you, Mr.  
4 Oxford. Go ahead, Mr. Snyder.

5 MR. SNYDER: Thank you, Your Honor. Now we agree,  
6 Your Honor, as GM has pointed out that the Dealer Arbitration  
7 Act is silent as to judicial review. But we contend in  
8 addition to the AAA commercial rules giving the federal court  
9 subject matter jurisdiction that, as Your Honor pointed out,  
10 that if a federal question presents itself under 28 U.S.C. 1331  
11 then the California district court can rely on that federal  
12 question to possess subject matter jurisdiction. And that  
13 federal question is presented here, to wit. Is the removal of  
14 a Chevrolet brand the granting of a "covered dealership" as  
15 that term is defined under 747(a) and (d)? It's stated  
16 specifically, Your Honor, in Rally's statement. Does the  
17 removal of a Chevrolet brand constitute a "covered dealership"?  
18 So we have a federal statute that Rally is asking a federal  
19 court to interpret and we have the Vaden case which I cite to  
20 at -- and -- 129 S. Ct. 1262. In that case, the Supreme Court  
21 held that a federal court could look through the arbitration,  
22 Your Honor, to determine whether the controversy in question  
23 arises under the federal law so that the court has federal  
24 question jurisdiction. That's all we're asking the federal  
25 court to do. Interpret a federal statute on a federal

1 question.

2 And in addition, Your Honor, we believe the federal  
3 court has jurisdiction for the issue that Your Honor has raised  
4 and is the most troubling, at least to me, that there is no  
5 right to judicial review. GM doesn't cite to any federal  
6 statute, while may be silent or limited, that did not allow for  
7 judicial review. Which goes right to the due process argument  
8 and the constitutionality of the statute itself.

9 Your Honor, the arbitrator didn't have to take  
10 bribes. Let's just say we end this hearing and regardless of  
11 what happens GM says, I'm not reinstating you. I don't care  
12 what Judge Gerber says or anyone else says.

13 THE COURT: Well, isn't that the easier case because  
14 wouldn't you, Mr. Snyder, be able to come back to me in about  
15 ten minutes and say that New GM isn't complying with the  
16 arbitration award? And to the extent that I understood your  
17 48(c) argument, the language is "deemed to have consented to  
18 enforcement". And if you say -- let's take what I understand  
19 to be the case. You won three-quarters of -- or your client  
20 won three-quarters of the arbitration before the arbitrator.  
21 And suppose GM stiffes you on those three-quarters where you  
22 prevailed -- your client prevailed. I would have thought --  
23 and maybe Mr. Steinberg should be heard on this because if he  
24 contends to the contrary, I guess I should know it. But I  
25 would have thought that you could come back to me and say make

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1 GM -- New GM comply with the arbitrator's award. But you're  
2 not trying to enforce the arbitrator's award. You're trying to  
3 attack it. You're trying to attack the one-quarter of it you  
4 don't like.

5 MR. SNYDER: Your Honor, we're trying to say that if  
6 there is judicial review of a statute that does not allow for  
7 judicial review that the constitutionality of the statute, the  
8 due process argument is the district court possesses  
9 jurisdiction to that. There's a crucial difference, Your Honor  
10 -- and to me, this is the crux of our argument. Putting the  
11 core related and Petrie aside for the moment, whether this  
12 Court has jurisdiction or not is to me not the issue. The  
13 issue is whether the California court has jurisdiction. What  
14 GM is saying is this Court has sole and exclusive jurisdiction.  
15 That means of the 600 dealers that had their claims arbitrated  
16 with GM, if they are unhappy with a portion of the award then  
17 all 600 nondebtors with New GM, a nondebtor, that this Court  
18 has sole and exclusive jurisdiction to determine under the  
19 Federal Arbitration Act what a covered dealership is. And I'm  
20 suggesting that the California district court, whether as a  
21 federal question or for constitutionality purposes, might also  
22 have that jurisdiction because it can't be that as a result of  
23 the wind-down agreements, when the Dealer Arbitration Act was  
24 passed that the Court was willing to say we're going to pass  
25 the Dealer Arbitration Act to give you dealers another bite at

1 the apple. But you have to go back to the bankruptcy court if  
2 you want it enforced. Now maybe this Court does have related-  
3 to jurisdiction but it couldn't be, Your Honor, that there is  
4 no right of judicial review and Congress' intent was that  
5 everybody has to come back here. And that's --

6 THE COURT: I don't want to interpret you, Mr.  
7 Snyder, but it wasn't related-to jurisdiction that I think is  
8 in play here. I think it's arising-in jurisdiction, the second  
9 of the three prongs under 1334.

10 MR. SNYDER: Understood, Your Honor. And again, even  
11 if this Court has arising-to jurisdiction, that is not what  
12 we're arguing. They are arguing -- and remember, Your Honor,  
13 the motion seeks to compel us to withdraw a lawsuit in federal  
14 court because the district court does not have jurisdiction.  
15 And I think for the three reasons I've stated, the plain  
16 language of 48(c), the introduction of a federal question and  
17 the constitutionality of a law that does not allow for judicial  
18 review, gives the California district court jurisdiction. It's  
19 not to say that this Court doesn't have jurisdiction but we  
20 didn't start in this court. We started in the federal court in  
21 California. They filed an answer. They didn't move to  
22 dismiss. And then three days later, they filed the motion  
23 here. Not by order to show cause because they were so  
24 concerned about the California's court jurisdiction but by  
25 regular motion. The -- we, in deference to this Court, didn't



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1 go into the California court to seek a stay. We told them that  
2 we would come here and explain to this Court why the Court, the  
3 California court, has federal court jurisdiction. They don't  
4 reply to our arguments about Vaden and the ability of a federal  
5 court to go through -- look through an arbitration. The  
6 decision is powerful, Your Honor, to the extent it allows you  
7 to look through the arbitration and see if a federal question  
8 is presented. That's our issue, that federal questions are  
9 presented, constitutionality presented. Normally not an issue  
10 but in a case where a statute is silent as to the right of  
11 judicial review, the implication or the logical extension of  
12 their argument is that everybody has to come back here. And it  
13 is submitted, Your Honor, that that's not what Congress  
14 intended by leaving the statute silent. We believe what they  
15 intended is that the arbitration rules will allow the dealer,  
16 the aggrieved dealer, to go into a court of competent  
17 jurisdiction to get the relief they seek.

18 And although the judicial estoppel argument has gone  
19 up and back, Your Honor, in their complaint, in paragraph 3 in  
20 the Santa Monica case, they don't just rely on diversity when  
21 they seek to compel Santa Monica to execute the settlement  
22 agreement. They rely on 28 U.S.C. 1331 to get the district  
23 court's attention. They rely on the Dealer Arbitration Act to  
24 get the Court to execute -- to restrain Santa Monica. Then  
25 they come here and say this Court has sole and exclusive

1 jurisdiction with respect to matters in the Dealer Arbitration  
2 Act. They didn't come here, Your Honor, when Santa Monica  
3 sought to exercise jurisdiction and refused to sign that  
4 settlement agreement. They went to the California district  
5 court. And so, to argue that sole and exclusive jurisdiction  
6 sits here but to rely on federal jurisdiction not just  
7 diversity, 28 U.S.C. 1331 jurisdiction in California, to me,  
8 rises to the level of judicial estop.

9 The last argument, Your Honor, which was the first  
10 one you raised, is the applicability of Petrie and the ability  
11 of the Court to enforce its orders. And there's no doubt that  
12 buyers have expectations and they want this Court to enforce  
13 them and they have a right to come in here and seek that. But  
14 they have -- every provision of the wind-down agreement that  
15 they have pointed to, other than the covenant to sue, is not  
16 being implicated. We were able to sue, commence an  
17 arbitration, because the Dealer Arbitration Act allowed us to.  
18 They actually state in their papers that us going into  
19 California district court violated the covenant to sue. Well,  
20 how can that be? How can that be that the statute allows us to  
21 go to Califor -- and commence an arbitration but doesn't allow  
22 it to enforce it anywhere?

23 The wind-down agreement is still the wind-down  
24 agreement. The dealer, Rally, and the other 600 dealers still  
25 have certain obligations that they need to fulfill by October

1 31st. But the covenant not to sue is not one of them because  
2 the statute that was codified in December 2009 gave the dealer  
3 certain rights. And they are limited rights. They're not  
4 happy with the outcome. Rally believes that the definition of  
5 covered dealer was inappropriately misinterpreted by the  
6 arbitrator. There is nothing in the wind-down agreement or the  
7 363 order, Your Honor, that suggests they would have to come  
8 back here for that.

9 Now, it's unfortunate that the statute is silent.  
10 But issues of due process and federal question as well as the  
11 AAA rules allow Rally to go into court in California to redress  
12 those arguments. That's our position. Again, we're not  
13 suggesting or it's minimally relevant that this Court has  
14 jurisdiction. Our question is does the California court have  
15 jurisdiction. GM thought it did under 28 U.S.C. 1331. So do  
16 we. And that's the reason we object to them saying this Court  
17 has sole and exclusive jurisdiction under the wind-down  
18 agreements as if the Dealer Arbitration Act didn't exist.

19 THE COURT: Well, you hit on something that I'm glad  
20 you did, Mr. Snyder, because I want both you and Mr. Steinberg  
21 to address it when it's your respective turns. And, of course,  
22 it's your turn now. I would have thought that the Dealer  
23 Arbitration Act trumps my order and the wind-down agreements to  
24 the extent they're inconsistent. But that the duty of any  
25 Court is to try to construe them together to achieve harmony

1 between them so there is the minimal clashing between the two  
2 and that where, of course, the later Dealer Arbitration Act  
3 speaks to something, it controls over my order but only to that  
4 extent. Do you think I'm off base from that?

5 MR. SNYDER: I do not, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. Keep going.

7 MR. SNYDER: And, Your Honor, I or Rally do not see  
8 the ability to confirm a judgment, as that term is defined in  
9 48(c), or if the district court should allow, modify or vacate  
10 the judgment under the commercial arbitration rules as being  
11 anything other than an extension of the arbitration which was  
12 codified in the Dealer Arbitration Act. It isn't a violation  
13 of the covenant not to sue under the wind-down agreements  
14 because under the wind-down agreements in July 2009, this was  
15 not a sparkle in anybody's eye. No one knew what Congress  
16 would end up doing six months later. They're looking to  
17 prohibit us from doing something that wasn't even contemplated  
18 at the time Your Honor entered that order. This came six  
19 months later. And so the rules changed partially. I'm not  
20 suggesting the wind-down agreements are -- they say aggregated  
21 -- none of that. But the covenant to sue was. And they were  
22 allowed to commence arbitrations against New GM in order to get  
23 rights back, thumbs up or thumbs down.

24 THE COURT: Do you think it covers all covenants or  
25 all suits or can you harmonize them by saying that if you win

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1 in the arbitrations that Congress has now given you, of course  
2 you have the right to enforce that if your opponent, which in  
3 this case is New GM, is so dumb as to try to welsh on the  
4 arbitrator's ruling. But that's really how they -- separate  
5 provisions are best read together.

6 MR. SNYDER: Your Honor, there's a reason why -- you  
7 call it dumb, but there's a reason why the fifty states and  
8 every federal statute except this one that I've seen has the  
9 right of judicial review. It's because if there is no  
10 enforcement of a final or binding arbitration then the other  
11 side could say, ha, forget it, I'm not doing anything 'cause  
12 you have no place to go.

13 THE COURT: Again, I remain troubled by the  
14 distinction between enforcing the award which my tentative,  
15 California style subject to your opponent's right to be heard,  
16 is that if New GM hadn't complied with the arbitrator's award,  
17 I would make it, and to attack the arbitrator's award which  
18 invokes separate policy considerations.

19 MR. SNYDER: Well, Your Honor, I would say that it  
20 seems as if the rules which required findings of fact were set  
21 up for judicial review. If the arbitrator had simply said,  
22 Your Honor, we're ruling against Rally because I know Larry  
23 Mayle, the president, and I don't like him, where could we go?  
24 If the Court is suggesting if that was the ruling that we could  
25 go into this court to overturn or vacate an arbitration for

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1 manifest disregard of fact and law out of an arbitration coming  
2 out of the Dealer Arbitration Act, I don't see it. I see it as  
3 being a federal question that allows judicial review for  
4 manifest disregard of facts and law through a federal court.  
5 That's what the Supreme Court said in Vaden, that you can look  
6 through the arbitration to see if a federal question exists.  
7 GM doesn't even cite to Vaden in their reply brief. But that  
8 is uniquely a federal question. Is Chevy a covered brand as  
9 that term is defined under 747(a) and (d)? What could be more  
10 of a federal question than citing to the statute itself. This  
11 is not an abstract referral, Your Honor, where Rally was trying  
12 to get around state jurisdiction. This is questioning the  
13 words of a federal statute. And Rally would have never thought  
14 to come to this court, Your Honor, as a result of an  
15 arbitration to enforce or to ask this Court to make findings of  
16 fact as to whether Chevy is a covered dealership as that term  
17 is defined under 747(a) because although this Court might have  
18 jurisdiction, the California court certainly has jurisdiction.

19 And, Your Honor, that's what we see as the  
20 difference. When I speak about losing or diminishing  
21 jurisdiction in the sales process, I'm not suggesting that  
22 buyers can't come back to get the benefit of their bargain.  
23 But this was not the benefit of anybody's bargain because the  
24 Dealer Arbitration Act wasn't even in existence at the time.  
25 They couldn't have said we want this statute because we want no

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1 judicial review from the dealers. What are you talking about?  
2 There's no right to review anyway. There's a covenant to not  
3 to sue. The Dealer Arbitration Act hadn't even been introduced  
4 yet. So they can't say they didn't get their expectation  
5 'cause there was no expectation. This was six months later.  
6 So I don't see this as an enforcement of an order 'cause there  
7 was no expectation that they would have that right.

8 (Pause)

9 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Snyder, I'm going to give you  
10 a chance to reply but is this a good time to hear from Mr.  
11 Steinberg?

12 MR. SNYDER: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 (Pause)

15 MR. STEINBERG: Good afternoon, Your Honor. I think  
16 Your Honor's questions were very incisive and I will try to  
17 answer them as best as I can and to try to point out why I  
18 think my colleague has not fully answered Your Honor's inquiry.  
19 I think Your Honor is correct that the real issue here is there  
20 was a wind-down agreement. Your Honor approved the wind-down  
21 agreement that was part of the sale process. And then  
22 subsequently, Congress acted under the Dealer Arbitration Act.  
23 So how do you mesh what you had done versus the later  
24 congressional statute?

25 And I think it's important to distinguish what does

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1 the Dealer Arbitration Act do and what it specifically did not  
2 do. And the thing that it did, and I think my colleague has  
3 agreed with this, is it provided dealers who either signed the  
4 wind-down agreements or had their dealership agreements  
5 rejected in either the Chrysler or General Motors cases a new  
6 right created by a federal statute to be reinstated to the  
7 dealer network of the debtor or the purchaser of the debtor's  
8 assets. And in order to avail themselves of that right, they  
9 had to file timely notices in accordance with the Dealer  
10 Arbitration Act for binding arbitration. And I think my  
11 colleague was correct. It was either up or down. Either  
12 you're reinstated or you're not reinstated. And the Dealer  
13 Arbitration Act told arbitrators they had seven factors,  
14 nonexclusive, to take a look at for purposes of making that  
15 determination. And there was specific and very, very tight  
16 deadlines that were put in for the arbitration. You had to act  
17 to ask for arbitration within forty days. You had six months  
18 to complete the arbitration. The arbitrator had seven days to  
19 make its ruling and that everything had to be done by July 14th  
20 because the legislative intent of the statute which was to try  
21 to create what Congress thought was a better balance between  
22 the rights of dealers and the rights of the manufacturers, the  
23 legislative intent was we need to have a streamlined process  
24 that would not otherwise get bogged down with discovery or  
25 litigation. We both quote -- at least our reply quotes from



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1 the legislative history to the statute which is fairly sparse.  
2 But the legislative history refers to the need to have  
3 something streamlined and quick and the statute does not  
4 provide for judicial review unlike the Federal Arbitration Act  
5 in Section 9, 10, 11 and 12. There are specific provisions  
6 which talk about what a Court can do or not do in connection  
7 with something that is governed by the FAA. This clearly is  
8 not governed by the FAA. The FAA governs agreements where the  
9 parties had agreed to arbitrate. This was not one of those  
10 situations. This was a case where Congress had imposed the  
11 obligation or the right for the dealer to seek arbitration  
12 under specific circumstances but it wasn't a contractual  
13 obligation that the parties had bargained for. So the FAA,  
14 which is leadered (sic), the cases relating to the FAA, the  
15 judicial review relating to an FAA, which my adversary recites  
16 in his papers, they really have no relevance here. And I think  
17 Your Honor was right. There is no judicial review. And that  
18 was, I think, intentional. And I think my adversary says where  
19 is it that you can never get judicial review? You know,  
20 Congress passes a statute not -- imposing a new right and then  
21 says that's -- we'll have a procedure to implement that statute  
22 and that's it. And there's no more judicial review.

23 THE COURT: Well, pause, Mr. Steinberg, because I'm  
24 wondering if that proves too much. Suppose the arbitrator's  
25 taking bribes. And suppose the forum is this court and the

1 dealer's been victimized by the arbitrator taking bribes.

2 You're telling me that I can't look at that?

3 MR. STEINBERG: I'm not sure if the right remedy  
4 would have been to go to the AAA and say that there was an  
5 invalid arbitration and seek the remedy there to invalidate the  
6 results of the arbitration. But --

7 THE COURT: So you're going to take that and -- bring  
8 it down and give it to the marshals and then you can return to  
9 the courtroom.

10 MR. STEINBERG: But I will say, Your Honor, that the  
11 hypothetical that you posed which is that if there was a  
12 violation of what Congress had enacted because they had bribed  
13 the arbiter of the resolution, it would seem to me that there  
14 needs to be some kind of review. And maybe it would be Your  
15 Honor who has the review. I'm not sure whether it would be the  
16 AAA that would review it. But it would seem to me in a bribe  
17 circumstance that that would be the case.

18 But I think critical for what my adversary has argued  
19 which is that he's raised the potential for the  
20 constitutionality of the Dealer Arbitration Act because there  
21 is no judicial review, I don't know where that argument goes  
22 for him because the Dealer Arbitration Act was a right given to  
23 the dealers to potentially seek reinstatement. If you declare  
24 the statute unconstitutional then they don't have that right.  
25 If he's asking you to put in to the statute that which doesn't

1 exist which is to, in effect, write the judicial review section  
2 when Congress didn't write it, I don't think Your Honor has the  
3 ability to do that.

4 And I don't think -- you know, they spend ten pages  
5 of their brief saying how we didn't comply with provisions that  
6 is the judicial standard under the Federal Arbitration Act.  
7 And I would say to Your Honor that that's irrelevant because  
8 that's not -- there is no standard of judicial review. And you  
9 can't pick something from another statute and say that's what  
10 I'm going to use here in order to make it constitutional.

11 Now, there is situations where Congress has given a  
12 right to a party and there is no judicial review. We cited in  
13 our papers the Switchmen case which was actually quoted in  
14 Thomas. And we specifically highlighted the language which  
15 said that "A review by the federal district court of the  
16 board's determination is not necessary to preserve or protect  
17 that right." Congress, for its reasons on its own, decided  
18 upon the protection of the right which it created. And if you  
19 look at Thomas itself, they talked about the concept of where  
20 Congress has written legislation where it asked an agency to  
21 make a decision. And the issue was if the agency did something  
22 wrong, can it get judicial review. And there are certain  
23 statutes that provide that there is no judicial review. So the  
24 Thomas case when it was written referred to Medicare  
25 reimbursement and said that an agency's review relating to

1 Medicare reimbursement is not subject to judicial review.

2 So --

3 THE COURT: And Switchmen dealt with the Railway  
4 Labor Act?

5 MR. STEINBERG: Yes.

6 THE COURT: And it was at least Thomas that was the  
7 use of your "passum" if I recall.

8 MR. STEINBERG: Yes. And I apologize for that, Your  
9 Honor.

10 So we have a situation here where there was a  
11 legislative reason why things were done on a streamlined basis.  
12 There is no language that talks about judicial review and there  
13 is no issue I believe relating to constitutionality. But if it  
14 is, I don't think it gets them anywhere. And it was nice that  
15 they made this a central part of their oral argument when it  
16 was relegated to a footnote in their brief which -- without any  
17 real challenge other than just a throw-away that they question  
18 whether it could be constitutional if there's no judicial  
19 review.

20 Your Honor --

21 THE COURT: At least it got your attention enough for  
22 you to cover it from pages 8 through 10 of your reply.

23 MR. STEINBERG: Yes, Your Honor, because I did think  
24 it was an important issue and that Your Honor would want the  
25 benefit of some briefing. But I did not think that that was

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1 the center of the argument.

2 Similarly, you'll notice how their argument is  
3 morphed because their papers said Your Honor didn't have  
4 jurisdiction, didn't have core jurisdiction, didn't have  
5 related jurisdiction, asked you to defer to the public policy  
6 of the Federal Arbitration Act, to defer to an arbitration when  
7 they weren't prepared to necessarily defer to arbitration. And  
8 now they, today, said well, we really didn't say you didn't say  
9 you didn't have jurisdiction. You just don't have exclusive  
10 jurisdiction. We think it may be concurrent jurisdiction. So  
11 they did move as well on that.

12 But I think, Your Honor, that the reason why you do  
13 have exclusive jurisdiction and the reason why the wind-down  
14 agreement is implicating is because there is no judicial review  
15 of what the arbitrator did. If there is no judicial review --  
16 I think everybody agrees that the statute doesn't provide for  
17 it explicitly. If there isn't then what's left? Because the  
18 other thing that was critical as to the interplay between the  
19 Dealer Arbitration Act and the wind-down agreement, the other  
20 thing that's critical is that the Dealer Arbitration Act didn't  
21 abrogate totally the wind-down agreement. I think my  
22 colleague, my adversary, has agreed that it didn't totally  
23 abrogate it. There are specific provisions that survive. And  
24 so, that if you have an arbitration which has been completed  
25 because all the arbitrations had to be completed by July 14th,

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1 and that's it then what's left on the areas where there was no  
2 reinstatement, the thumbs down for the Chevrolet dealership,  
3 you're back to being governed by the wind-down agreement. The  
4 wind-down agreement provided that you couldn't sue New General  
5 Motors. That still applies. There (sic) was abrogated solely  
6 to the extent that the Dealer Arbitration Act allowed for this  
7 binding arbitration remedy to be afforded to dealers who  
8 availed themselves of the opportunity to seek arbitration  
9 within forty days of the enactment of the Act. Otherwise, the  
10 wind-down agreement stayed in effect. And the wind-down  
11 agreement stayed in effect now for purposes for this entire  
12 period of time that the Rally dealership was not entitled to  
13 buy New General Motors vehicles because the wind-down provision  
14 for that still stayed in effect.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Steinberg, do you agree that if New  
16 GM hadn't complied with the arbitrator's award on the three  
17 brands for which the arbitrator ruled in Rally's favor that  
18 Rally could have come back here to enforce it with or without  
19 the no-sue clause?

20 MR. STEINBERG: Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 MR. STEINBERG: Yes. I agree with that because  
23 there, the provision, I believe, is ancillary to the  
24 arbitration decision. They're looking to implement and enforce  
25 the arbitration decision. And I think that if it wasn't being

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1 done since the arbitration is over, they do need to have some  
2 kind of remedy. And they should be able to come back to this  
3 Court. But I do think it's this Court because I do think that  
4 part and parcel of the reason why there was exclusive  
5 jurisdiction language in the sale order, exclusive jurisdiction  
6 in the wind-down agreement that everybody who signed the wind-  
7 down agreement signed was that New General Motors had bargained  
8 for as part of the sale process -- had bargained for one forum,  
9 this Court who had approved the transaction, to handle anything  
10 relating to an enforcement or dispute relating to these  
11 agreements. And to take it more broadly, to handle anything  
12 that related to, in effect, the assignment and the continuation  
13 of the dealership network from Old GM to New GM. And I think  
14 that that was what New GM had bargained for here. And I think  
15 Rally understood that because they not only were passive on the  
16 entry of the sale order but in the wind-down agreement they  
17 specifically recognized the exclusive jurisdiction. And that  
18 didn't change. That didn't change. That's what New GM had  
19 bargained for.

20 The issue, Your Honor, with regard to judicial  
21 estoppel I think could be easily dealt with by the fact that in  
22 the case where New General Motors went to a court, it was to  
23 enforce a settlement agreement. The Dealer Arbitration Act  
24 specifically says that if you're going to settle then there is  
25 no arbitration and that the arbitrator has nothing to do. So

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1 when parties settle, they take themselves out of the Dealer  
2 Arbitration Act totally based on the expressed language of the  
3 statute. Then if someone --

4 THE COURT: Why didn't New GM come to me to enforce  
5 that order?

6 MR. STEINBERG: We could have, for sure, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

8 MR. STEINBERG: We could have, for sure, done that.

9 Your Honor, the issue with regard to Rule 48(c) of  
10 the Commercial Arbitration Rules, we did indicate that we  
11 weren't fully adopting the Commercial Arbitration Rules. The  
12 Commercial Arbitration Rule, Rule 48(c), is for purposes of  
13 seeking enforcement of an arbitration award and they are not  
14 seeking enforcement of an arbitration award. And the AAA rules  
15 itself say that the rules will be applied only to the extent  
16 that it's not inconsistent with the Dealer Arbitration Act.  
17 And we believe to try to, in effect, implicitly put in a  
18 judicial review concept through a rule that says that you can  
19 move for enforcement where we had protested it is inconsistent  
20 with the Dealer Arbitration Act which didn't provide for  
21 judicial review.

22 Now, the fact that -- I think my adversary pointed  
23 out to the fact that October 31 is fast approaching. And under  
24 the wind-down agreement, the Chevrolet dealership will be  
25 terminated. And the new dealership that New GM had promised to



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1 -- an entity that used to be a Saturn dealership that operated  
2 in the area is going to be given. And there are rights that  
3 people have because of that unless something happens in this  
4 court or another court. But there is this ticking deadline  
5 that is there. And they never -- they filed a motion -- a  
6 complaint in August. They themselves have never moved for an  
7 injunction or for a stay or to try to continue the October 31  
8 deadline. And I don't think that they can. I think that they  
9 had agreed that it would get terminated. I think even the  
10 Dealer Arbitration Act specifically wanted finality to these  
11 issues and to have finality because it's not only New GM's  
12 rights that are being implicated but we've had a dealer who's  
13 effectively been on hold since December of 2009 waiting to go  
14 in on November 1st. And their rights will be implicated as  
15 well.

16 I think that, Your Honor, that with regard to the  
17 interplay between the wind-down agreement and the Dealer  
18 Arbitration Act -- the two most critical things is that there  
19 is no judicial review that's specified in the statute. And  
20 because there's no judicial review, you're left with a wind-  
21 down agreement that had not been, in effect, modified at all  
22 except for the overlay of allowing for binding arbitration on a  
23 right given by Congress. And therefore, the commencement of  
24 the lawsuit after the award had been given by the arbitrator is  
25 a violation of the wind-down agreement and the provisions that

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1 say that you should not sue and you should not interfere.

2 I will note, because it hasn't been said, that the  
3 arbitrator gave his award in June and New General Motors gave a  
4 letter of intent for the other four dealerships that the  
5 arbitrator said had to be reinstated. And Rally has been  
6 reinstated for those other four dealerships. And this --

7 THE COURT: Oh. So when I said it won three-  
8 quarters, actually it won four-fifths? Or with respect to four  
9 of the five franchises that it once owned?

10 MR. STEINBERG: That's correct. So they are  
11 operating right now. And they got their letter of intent which  
12 was supposed to be given by New General Motors, I think, with  
13 ten days of the arbitration award. It was only after that they  
14 were well down the road to getting the four in place that they  
15 decided to sue for the fifth. And, Your Honor, our brief tries  
16 to strip away the layers. And to some extent when you orally  
17 argue, you try to figure out how much of all the arguments you  
18 have to make. But this was even governed by the Federal  
19 Arbitration Act. I'm not even sure whether -- what they're  
20 arguing about would be subject to any kind of judicial review  
21 anyway. We do set forth in our brief the arguments that we  
22 think show that there was -- that the arbitration award was  
23 consistent with what should have been done because there was  
24 not one franchise agreement but there were five franchises  
25 agreement. And it's been dealt with because they've taken four

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1 of the five and we still have one that's outstanding. And we  
2 point to the language of the sales agreement which talk about  
3 "General Motors separately on behalf of its division  
4 identified" and talk about the "separate" nature of each of  
5 these agreements. The wind-down agreements uses the plural,  
6 doesn't use the singular for purposes of talking about these  
7 agreements. And not to be overly cute about the argument, but  
8 if they were right that this was one agreement and not five  
9 agreements and the arbitrator found a taint with regard to one  
10 portion of an integrated agreement then the result would be the  
11 same as if it was an executory contract under the Bankruptcy  
12 Code with five lease schedules as part of one integrated  
13 agreement where the debtor couldn't perform all five. It's an  
14 all-up or nothing. And if that's the case, there would not  
15 have been a reinstatement for all five instead of one. That's  
16 the natural outflow of what their argument is which is that if  
17 you've got a taint on an integrated agreement which is  
18 nonsoluble then the whole agreement falls not that the whole  
19 agreement becomes good. And so, what you have here is someone  
20 who got the benefits of four dealerships. Then after they got  
21 the four dealerships on the reinstatement decided to sue and is  
22 now making an argument which is I want my cake, I want to eat  
23 it, too, in the context of a statute that doesn't provide for  
24 this type of relief.

25 Your Honor, if you'd just bear with me just one

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1 second, I just want to check my notes to see if I --

2 THE COURT: Sure.

3 MR. STEINBERG: -- have answered your questions.

4 (Pause)

5 MR. STEINBERG: I think, Your Honor, when you said --  
6 you asked my adversary the question did the Dealer Arbitration  
7 Act trump the wind-down agreement for all purposes and he  
8 answered no that it was incumbent on you to try to make the two  
9 consistent and coherent that he was essentially making the  
10 argument that I'm asking Your Honor to, as well, which is that  
11 the wind-down agreement had vitality and it was modified for  
12 purposes of the covenant not to sue solely for the purposes of  
13 doing the binding arbitration procedure consistent with the  
14 statute that Congress had subsequently passed. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Snyder, reply?

16 MR. SNYDER: Your Honor, to first argue what is a  
17 covered dealership, what is a not covered dealership to use  
18 executory contract analyses versus using franchise law  
19 analyses, using California law versus Title 11 law, that's  
20 another reason why the California court has jurisdiction  
21 because, again, what Mr. Steinberg is doing is saying well,  
22 look, Judge, you have jurisdiction. You can apply bankruptcy  
23 law between two nondebtor parties as to what means a covered  
24 dealership under the Federal Arbitration Act. And any of the  
25 600 dealers who applied for arbitration under GM could do that

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1 as well. And it seems to me that if Congress meant to give  
2 dealers and the AAA jurisdiction over these acts then by a  
3 natural extension, he meant them to be final and binding.  
4 Counsel for New GM sort of takes the car and then he hits a  
5 brake. He says the covenant not to sue was abrogated by the  
6 Dealer Arbitration Act but it stops there, that there is no  
7 right after the arbitration. And that is not true and also  
8 doesn't address the question of federal question jurisdiction  
9 that the federal court can possess jurisdiction over.

10 And he raised the Thomas case, Your Honor, but the  
11 statute involved in the Thomas case is the Federal Insecticide  
12 Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. In that statute, Your Honor,  
13 and I cite to Section 136a(c)(1)(F)(iii) of Title 7: "The  
14 FIFRA arbitration scheme allows judicial review of 'the  
15 findings and determinations of the arbitrator' only in the  
16 instance of fraud, misrepresentation or other misconduct by one  
17 of the parties to the arbitration or the arbitrator. This  
18 provision protects against arbitrators who abuse or exceed the  
19 powers or willfully misconstrue their mandate under the  
20 governing law." So Title 7 allowed for judicial review or  
21 allowed for a response to Your Honor's question as to what  
22 happens when an arbitrator acts inappropriately. Those last  
23 quotes, by the way, Your Honor, were the Thompson v. Union  
24 Carbide, 473 U.S. at 592.

25 Here there's nothing. There's no ability for Rally

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1 or any of the 600 dealers to get redress as a direct result of  
2 the arbitrator's conduct no matter what it is. And so what  
3 they're saying is everybody, come back here. And we just don't  
4 believe that's appropriate under the case law. It's not  
5 appropriate under Union Carbide. It's not appropriate under  
6 Vaden. And it's not appropriate, we would suggest, under the  
7 Second Circuit law.

8 Your Honor, the statute is less than a year old. Of  
9 course, the cases we need to use are cases by analogy which are  
10 the FAA statutes. So under the FAA -- I'm sorry -- line of  
11 cases, there are agreements. Agreed. But that doesn't mean  
12 the arguments aren't consistent because the AAA rules assume  
13 that if you're a party to the arbitration you've agreed to  
14 consent to the outcome. In the Second Circuit case, in the  
15 Idea Nuova case, the statute is silent just like the statute --  
16 I'm sorry -- the agreement is silent just like the statute here  
17 is silent. AAA rules apply and we're not saying anything else.  
18 And the Second Circuit said if the AAA rules apply then  
19 whatever the arbitrator says is final and binding and the  
20 unhappy party can then go to the district court and try to  
21 confirm that arbitration. Makes sense. That's all we're  
22 seeking to do here. The statute is silent. To suggest that we  
23 have no right of judicial review of an arbitration belies the  
24 fact that every stage plus Title 9 allow for confirmation,  
25 vacature, review of arbitrations.

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1 Now, Mr. Steinberg is right. The statute 48(c) only  
2 speaks to judgment. And maybe the California district court'll  
3 say you can only seek to confirm the judgment. You can't seek  
4 to vacate it. You can't seek to modify it. And interprets  
5 Rule 48(c) that way as counsel did. But why can't Rally have  
6 the chance to allow California law to do that?

7 Your Honor, this is important. I'd like to go  
8 through the wind-down agreement and the jurisdiction sections  
9 because they are not inconsistent with the relief we're seeking  
10 here. This is from GM's own motion. "The Court retains  
11 exclusive jurisdiction to enforce and implement the terms of  
12 this order, the MSPA," which is the wind-down agreements, "and  
13 each of the agreements executed in connection therewith,  
14 including the deferred termination agreement in all respects  
15 including, but not limited to, retaining jurisdiction to  
16 resolve any disputes with respect to or concerning the deferred  
17 termination agreements."

18 There's no dispute regarding the deferred termination  
19 agreements at all. There's a dispute as to whether Chevy is a  
20 covered dealership under the Dealer Arbitration Act. We take  
21 no position as to whether this Court -- the sale order speaks  
22 for itself. Section 13 of the wind-down agreement.  
23 "Continuing jurisdiction. By executing this agreement, Dealer  
24 hereby consents and agrees that the bankruptcy court shall  
25 retain full complete and exclusive jurisdiction to interpret,

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1 enforce and adjudicate disputes concerning the terms of this  
2 agreement and any matters related therein and survives  
3 termination."

4 Absolutely. There's an October 31st deadline. The  
5 wind-down agreement sets that out. We're bound to the extent  
6 we're bound under the wind-down agreement. We've asked GM to  
7 extend the October 31st date because of the late hour. They've  
8 refused. So now we have to deal with the October 31st deadline  
9 or get an extension by a court of competent jurisdiction.

10 But we're not addressing any of those provisions.  
11 Our -- we are seeking jurisdiction based on the Dealer  
12 Arbitration Act and not on the sale order and not on the wind-  
13 down agreements. This Court still has jurisdiction over those.

14 Your Honor, the argument about timing -- no good deed  
15 goes unpunished. They answered on September 7th and came into  
16 this court on September 10th. And then when we tried to get a  
17 hearing date as quickly as possible, we agreed we wouldn't go  
18 to the court in California to seek a stay if we could get a  
19 hearing date on October 4th. And we've abided by our agreement  
20 and we're anxiously awaiting whatever the Court's determination  
21 is going to be. But we deferred to this Court first because  
22 that's where New GM went. And nobody delayed here. As soon as  
23 the motion was filed, we sought a quick hearing and we got one  
24 thanks to chambers and Your Honor's courtesy. But -- I believe  
25 I'm finished.



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1 THE COURT: All right. Very well. All right. We're  
2 going to take a recess. I don't know how long it's going to  
3 take me. But you needn't be here before 4:30. And I'll come  
4 out with a ruling as soon thereafter as I can. We're in  
5 recess.

6 (Recess from 4:04 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.)

7 THE COURT: Have seats, please. I apologize for  
8 keeping you all waiting. In these jointly administered cases  
9 under Chapter 11 of the Code, General Motors LLC, which I'll  
10 normally refer to as New GM, moves for an order enjoining Rally  
11 Dealership from interfering with New GM's ability to, as it was  
12 put, to reform its dealership platform pursuant to a previous  
13 order I entered, from vacating or modifying an arbitration  
14 decision and from pursuing that effort in California district  
15 court.

16 Rally was a GM dealership that was being closed  
17 pursuant to an agreement that was acquired by New GM from Old  
18 GM. The Dealer Arbitration Act, which was subsequently signed  
19 into law, provided an opportunity for dealers such as Rally to  
20 become reinstated as New GM dealers, if they were successful in  
21 a binding arbitration proceeding, with New GM.

22 Rally won its arbitration proceeding with respect to  
23 three of its brands but not its Chevrolet brand. Rally is  
24 attempting to have this arbitration award modified or vacated  
25 in a federal district court in California. New GM argues that

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1 there is no right to modify the arbitration award and,  
2 additionally, that my Court is the only forum that can hear  
3 this issue. In addition, New GM argues that Rally has been  
4 interfering with New GM's establishment of an alternate Chevy  
5 dealership in violation of its agreement with New GM.

6 While I understand the difficulties faced by dealers  
7 such as Rally as a consequence of the events of last year, the  
8 motion must be granted. The following are my findings of fact  
9 and conclusions of law in connection with this determination.

10 As facts, I find that on July 5th, 2009, I entered  
11 the 363 sale order. That sale order authorized and approved a  
12 master purchase agreement dated as June 26, 2009, often  
13 referred by the parties as the MPA, between Old GM and an  
14 entity that later became New GM. Pursuant to the MPA and the  
15 363 sale order, on July 10, 2009, New GM purchased  
16 substantially all of Old GM's assets free and clear of Old GM's  
17 liabilities except as expressly assumed by New GM under the  
18 MPA.

19 As part of the transactions that were approved under  
20 the 363 sale order, Old GM entered into and assigned to New GM  
21 certain deferred termination agreements, which we refer to as  
22 wind-down agreements, which had originally been entered into  
23 between Old GM and certain of its authorized dealers. These  
24 agreements had been offered to dealers as an alternative to  
25 outright rejection of their dealer sales and service

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1 agreements, which we sometimes refer to as dealer agreements  
2 under the rights afforded to debtors to reject executory  
3 contracts under 365 of the Code. The wind-down agreements  
4 provided, among other things, that in exchange for certain  
5 payments and other consideration, the affected dealers' dealer  
6 agreements would terminate no later than October 31, 2010.

7 In December 2009, Congress enacted into law a new  
8 statute called the Dealer Arbitration Act which gave wind-down  
9 dealers such as Rally the opportunity to seek reinstatement to  
10 the GM dealer network through a binding arbitration process.  
11 Rally timely filed a request for arbitration and an arbitration  
12 was held in May before an arbitration -- arbitrator in  
13 California. On June 8, 2010, the arbitrator issued an award  
14 directing New GM to reinstate Rally's Buick, Cadillac and GMC  
15 dealer agreements but ruling that Rally's Chevrolet dealer  
16 agreement should not be reinstated. New GM is now currently  
17 attempting to establish another Chevrolet dealership in the  
18 Palmdale, California area where Rally is located. During this  
19 process, the owner of Rally has continued to lobby New GM to  
20 reinstate his Chevy dealership. After various proceedings, New  
21 GM determined to relocate the Chevy dealership to Lancaster,  
22 California which triggered an action by Palmdale against the  
23 city of Lancaster in the Superior Court of California.  
24 Palmdale claims that the terms of an agreement between  
25 Lancaster and the new Chevy dealership violated a state law

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1 that prevent cities from engaging in bidding wars to lure auto  
2 dealers and other large sales techs generating businesses to  
3 relocate them from one city to another. The owner of Rally,  
4 one Mr. Mayle, provided an affidavit on behalf of Palmdale in  
5 that action. New GM argues that Rally, through its agent, Mr.  
6 Mayle, is providing assistance in litigation against New GM and  
7 is interfering with the establishment of a new dealership in  
8 violation of the wind-down agreement.

9 Rally argues that the arbitrator was bound by the  
10 Dealer Arbitration Act to either reject or accept the entire  
11 dealer contract and that the arbitrator exceeded his authority  
12 by not reinstating the Chevy brand as well. Thus, on August  
13 13, 2010, Rally filed suit in California district court seeking  
14 to vacate or modify the arbitration award and to prevent  
15 termination of his Chevy dealer agreement though presumably  
16 wishing to maintain intact the other aspects of the  
17 arbitrator's award which maintained his dealerships for the  
18 other three brands, Cadillac, Buick and GMC.

19 Rally alleges, in substance, that the arbitrator's  
20 award in not giving him a complete victory was erroneous as a  
21 matter of law in its failure to accept its position that all of  
22 the separate brands had to be considered together in the  
23 species of double or nothing. He has not alleged that the  
24 arbitration award was the result of bribery, fraud, corruption,  
25 manifest disregard of settled law or any other ground that

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1 would be a basis for vacating an arbitration award if the  
2 Federal Arbitration Act applied.

3 I'll now turn to my conclusions of law. Turning  
4 first to jurisdiction and within the jurisdiction umbrella,  
5 first, to subject matter jurisdiction. First, it's plain that  
6 the district courts and bankruptcy courts in this district have  
7 subject matter jurisdiction over this controversy. The  
8 applicable subject matter jurisdiction statute is 28 U.S.C.,  
9 Section 1334, the section of the judicial code that follows the  
10 judicial code sections relating to federal question, diversity  
11 and admiralty jurisdiction. 1334 deals with subject matter  
12 jurisdiction with respect to bankruptcy cases and proceedings.  
13 That section provides, in relevant part, subsection (b), with  
14 exceptions not relevant here, "the district courts shall have  
15 original but not exclusive jurisdiction of all civil  
16 proceedings arising under title 11, or arising in or related to  
17 cases under title 11".

18 Rally addresses the issue of "related-to"  
19 jurisdiction under 1334 but that isn't the relevant subject  
20 matter jurisdiction issue. Rather it's the "arising in" prong  
21 of 1334 where New GM relies on an order I entered last year in  
22 this case under which this Court retained exclusive  
23 jurisdiction in paragraph 71(f) to "resolve any disputes with  
24 respect to or concerning the deferred termination agreements".  
25 The deferred termination agreements, which as I noted are also

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1 referred to as the wind-down agreements, included provisions by  
2 which dealers and New GM contractually agreed that this Court  
3 retained full and exclusive jurisdiction to enforce them as  
4 well as to specifically preclude Rally and other wind-down  
5 dealers from filing suit against New GM and taking any action  
6 to interfere with New GM's establishment of additional  
7 dealerships. I'll note parenthetically that there was nothing  
8 in the Dealer Arbitration Act to modify the subject matter  
9 jurisdiction of the federal courts nor to modify any of my  
10 earlier orders other than to provide what amounted to a defense  
11 to enforcement of the deferred termination agreements if and to  
12 the extent that a dealer prevailed in the arbitration process  
13 for which Congress provided.

14 Rally did prevail in the arbitration process with  
15 respect to three of its franchises and, presumably, would like  
16 to avail itself and enforce that part of the arbitration award.  
17 But it wishes to upset the arbitration result as to which it  
18 didn't prevail and used the hoped-for alternative result, that  
19 is, a reinstatement of its Chevy franchise, as a defense to its  
20 duties under the deferred termination agreement which duties  
21 otherwise obligated it to give up its Chevy dealership, that  
22 being a classic "dispute with respect to or concerning the  
23 deferred termination agreements".

24 Now, Rally may have come to an agreement by the end  
25 of oral argument. But in any event, I so rule that this Court

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1 does have subject matter jurisdiction over this controversy.

2 Similarly, I find that this is a core matter. Under  
3 28 U.S.C., Section 157(a)(2)(N), core matters include, with  
4 exceptions not relevant here, orders approving the sale of  
5 property. The 363 sale order and my approval of the wind-down  
6 agreement documented the outcome of those core proceedings.  
7 And a proceeding such as the motion now before me which seeks  
8 relief predicated on a "retained jurisdiction" clause in my  
9 order resolving a core matter is a core matter as well. The  
10 decision in Eveleth Mines, 312 B.R. at pages 644 to 645, is  
11 directly on point. In that case, the Court noted the motion  
12 that barred directly and necessarily comes out of a core  
13 proceeding in this case, the debtors' motion for authority to  
14 conduct a sale of assets of the estate free and clear of liens.  
15 Court proceedings under 28 U.S.C., Section 157(b) fall under  
16 the "arising under" or "arising in" jurisdiction of 28 U.S.C.  
17 Section 1334(b). Then the enforcement of orders resulting from  
18 core proceedings are themselves considered core proceedings.

19 The Second Circuit has held similarly. It's held  
20 that bankruptcy courts are empowered to enforce the sale orders  
21 that they enter and to protect the rights which were  
22 established by the sale order. See Millenium Seacarriers, 419  
23 F.3d at 97; and Petrie Retail, 304 F.3d at 229-230. Petrie  
24 Retail is particularly instructive because it also dealt with a  
25 dispute between two nondebtors addressing rights that were

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1 created by the sale order. Though Petrie Retail was not  
2 unanimous, it's no less binding on the lower courts for that  
3 reason.

4 Now there can be no dispute what the sale order  
5 actually said. Nor can there be any dispute as to the wind-  
6 down agreement said. Section 13 of the wind-down agreement had  
7 that continuing jurisdiction clause providing that the dealer  
8 hereby consented to and agreed that the bankruptcy court would  
9 retain full complete and exclusive jurisdiction to interpret,  
10 enforce and adjudicate disputes concerning the terms of this  
11 agreement and any other matter related thereto.

12 Here and to the extent Rally was successful in the  
13 arbitration, of course that would be a defense to win any  
14 effort to make it terminate its agreement. And to the extent  
15 that it wishes to either enforce the agreement as it has the  
16 right to do with the three franchises for which it prevailed or  
17 to defeat the agreement with respect to the one agreement where  
18 it lost, in any event they concern the terms of the agreement  
19 and, in particular, any other matter related thereto. I don't  
20 think that's subject to serious dispute.

21 Finally, I've considered and ultimately rejected  
22 Rally's suggestion that I exercise discretionary abstention on  
23 that. Plainly, there is a right to invoke discretionary  
24 invention under 1334(c)(1) of the judicial code. That's 28  
25 U.S.C. Section 1334(c)(1) which provides that nothing in this



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1 section prevents a district court in the interest of justice or  
2 in the interest of comity with state courts or respect for  
3 state law from abstaining or hearing a particular proceeding  
4 arising under Title 11 or arising in or related to a case until  
5 Title 11. And while it speaks principally of state courts and  
6 state law, I accept for the purposes of this analysis that we,  
7 bankruptcy courts have the power to abstain in favor of other  
8 federal courts when the circumstances so warrant. But I don't  
9 believe that the factors here so warrant. Standards that have  
10 been articulated for the exercise of discretionary abstention  
11 include of the efficient administration of the bankruptcy  
12 estate, comity, the degree of relatedness or remoteness of the  
13 proceeding to the main bankruptcy case, the existence of the  
14 right a trial and prejudice to the involuntarily removed party.  
15 Some of these, obviously, come in removal cases.

16 Here, I think the factor that is most important is  
17 the effect of the effect deficient administration of the  
18 bankruptcy estate. This was a procedure that needed to be  
19 resolved quickly as evidenced by the very tight time frames  
20 that Congress imposed. As important or more so, the bidders of  
21 the world that come in to bid for assets in the bankruptcy  
22 court must have knowledge that bankruptcy courts will stand by  
23 the documents as they were then drafted to give the parties to  
24 those agreements the predictability in their relations for  
25 which they are binding and upon which they justifiably rely.

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1 The Court in Eveleth Mines explained "as applied to a sale free  
2 and clear of liens, there are also good policy reasons for  
3 making a derivative core proceeding classification. Active  
4 bidding on assets from bankruptcy estates will be promoted if  
5 prospective purchasers have the assurance that they may go back  
6 to the originally forum that authorized the sale for a  
7 construction or clarification of the terms of the sale that it  
8 approved. Relegating post-sale disputes to a different forum  
9 injects an uncertainty into the sale process which would dampen  
10 interest and hinder the maximization of value. A purchaser  
11 that relies on the terms of a bankruptcy court's order and  
12 whose title and rights are given life by that order should have  
13 a forum in the issuing court." That is very strong guidance  
14 that suggests that a Court, like me, should not abstain in  
15 favor of another jurisdiction.

16 Similarly, comity is a factor that I would take into  
17 account if there were, as contrasted to here, strong state law  
18 concerns. But here, of course, there are not. I, no less  
19 than a district court, either in New York or California, can  
20 determine that which is just in determining whether or not to  
21 enforce or, as more relevant here, to undercut an arbitration  
22 award.

23 The degree of relatedness or remoteness of the  
24 proceeding to the main bankruptcy court is subject to a double  
25 entendre. On the one hand, this is not going to affect the

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1 assets and order of its liquidation in court. But the factors  
2 articulated in Eveleth Mines likewise cause Courts here to be  
3 slow to abstain because giving purchasers of assets the comfort  
4 that their needs and concerns are going to be addressed is  
5 pretty important.

6 I consider the existence of the right to a jury trial  
7 inapplicable because I assume that this would be decided  
8 without a jury trial in either events and I also consider  
9 prejudice to the involuntary removed party under the facts of  
10 this case.

11 So for all of these reasons, I decline to exercise  
12 discretionary abstention.

13 Now turning to what I should do with this controversy  
14 before me. Both sides now seem to agree that the Federal  
15 Arbitration Act doesn't apply because it implements contractual  
16 agreements to arbitrate. And here, the right to compel  
17 arbitration comes not from a contract but from the Dealer  
18 Arbitration Act itself. And it also now appears to be  
19 undisputed that the Dealer Arbitration Act doesn't provide for  
20 judicial review of arbitration awards issued after the  
21 mechanisms for which the Dealer Arbitration Act provides.

22 Nor do I think that I can or should find an applied  
23 right to judicial review under that statute. First, as you  
24 know from reading many earlier decisions that I've issued, I  
25 start with textural analysis where I note the significant